

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1365

Introduced by Assembly Member Steinberg

February 21, 2003

An act relating to social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1365, as introduced, Steinberg. Child welfare services.

Existing law requires each county to provide child welfare services.

Existing law provides for the administration of various child welfare services pursuant to regulations and procedures adopted by the State Department of Social Services.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would improve the child welfare services program by instituting specified improvements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that
2 outcomes of the child welfare services program can be improved,
3 by doing all of the following:

4 (1) Emphasizing child abuse prevention and early intervention
5 services and making the system less adversarial.

6 (2) Restructuring services to families so that abused children
7 can safely stay with or more quickly be returned safely to their
8 birth parents.

1 (3) Promoting adoption or guardianship, preferably with
2 relatives, for all abused children regardless of age or
3 circumstances whose parents are unable to respond to services or
4 treatment in a timely fashion.

5 (4) Ensuring emotional and financial security for foster youth
6 who leave care as young adults.

7 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to enact
8 legislation that would improve child welfare services by
9 instituting all of the following improvements:

10 (1) Community partnerships.

11 (2) Differential responses.

12 (3) Concurrent planning and permanency planning for older
13 youth.

